

Macaulay tells a story at great length and
 with much
 dramatic effect, that William was so
 disgusted with the
 quarrels of English parties that he
 seriously thought of
 abdicatin

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The King, argued Macaulay, was weary of
 his crown.
 He had tried to stand neutral amid party
 conflicts, with the
 result that he was unpopular with both Whigs
 and Tories.
 His efforts to still political strife during a
 national crisis had
 completely failed. Schomberg's campaign in
 Ireland had
 accomplished little, and the malpractices that
 had helped to
 decimate his army were as rife as ever. The
 administration
 was thoroughly disorganised, and the people
 angry and dis-
 appointed that a foreign king had not
 immediately mended
 the machinery of government. Most of the
 ministers were
 more intent upon attacking each other than in
 assisting
 William. Yet if he ventured to employ a
 Dutchman whom
 he could trust both factions united in
 protesting. There-
 fore William, feeling that he could no longer
 render
 effective service to the great cause to which his
 whole soul
 was devoted, determined to return to Holland.
 He would
 leave Mary, an Englishwoman with feminine
 grace and
 tact, to try her hand at composing the
 disputes that dis-
 tracted the State and the Church.

Holland, under his government, and

England, under
hers, might act cordially together against the
common
enemy.

He secretly ordered preparations to be
made for his
voyage. Having done this, he called together a
few of his
chief counsellors, and told them his purpose.
A squadron,
he said, was ready to carry him to his
country. He had
done with them. He hoped that the Queen
would be more
successful. The ministers were
thunderstruck. For once
all quarrels were suspended. The Tory
Caermarthen on
one side, the Whig Shrewsbury on the other,
expostulated